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Define Tomorrow to Set Our Course Initiative_ Request for Ideas

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Request for Ideas
DEFINE TOMORROW TO SET OUR COURSE INITIATIVE
Phase I: April 13–May 15, 2020

Introduction

To define a post-pandemic tomorrow at the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, we will engage in a rapid process, campuswide and beyond, for identifying key areas for growth and change in the coming years. We hope to find ideas for interdisciplinary programs, combinations of research and instruction, and collaborations between centers/institutes and colleges/departments. We will want to renew and expand our partnerships and collaborations with the state of Maine, state government, Maine people and communities, companies, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, municipal government, and public schools, all of which, along with our land grant university, are greatly impacted beyond our imagination by the coronavirus.

As a community, we will propose and consider major structural realignments as we produce a balanced budget that is built on the strategic priorities to which we agree.

We hope to benefit from the collective wisdom of our community to combine elements in new ways to achieve critical objectives that may: enhance interdisciplinary work; increase income from grants, contracts, and business partnerships; improve learning through new combinations of programs; and achieve collaborative steps across the institution.

We seek bold proposals to find ways to improve learning, research, and public engagement at UMaine. We hope to incentivize innovation, interdisciplinary collaborations, and links among research, instruction, and partnerships with the benefit of the collective wisdom of the community providing a basis for reorganization and reinvestment.

Strategic Vision and Values

Our values are to: **Foster Learner Success**, providing access and opportunities for lifelong learning in an inclusive community; **Discover and Innovate**, as Maine's land grant, sea grant and space grant research university; and **Grow and Advance Partnerships**, collaborating with partners to advance communities throughout Maine and the world.

We understand our role as stewards responsible for the resources entrusted to us. We seek to make a difference in the arts, science, industry, commerce, and federal, state and local

governments for the present and future betterment of all. The Strategic Vision and Values Framework includes three broad goals:

1. We will support and grow Maine's economy through new discoveries and by building a workforce whose members are engaged in their communities and prepared for lifelong success.
2. We will continue to provide accessible and affordable education, research, and service through processes that ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and quality.
3. The university will be a rewarding place to live, learn, and work by sustaining an environment that is diverse and inclusive, and fosters the personal development of all its stakeholders.

Request for Ideas

You are asked to submit brief sketches of ideas (1-2 pages) for new options at UMaine for FY21 (July 2020–June 2021) and FY22 (July 2021–June 2022.) The focus is to build on the basis of the Strategic Vision and Values Framework, and our core values as we establish the parameters for defining options for growth, reorganization, partnership, and interdisciplinary programs.

Your ideas will create new pathways for this Define Tomorrow process:

- A. **Sketches.** Please sketch your idea(s) (1-2 pages/idea) and submit them to UMProvost@maine.edu to be aggregated. Subject line: **DefineTomorrow, Phase 1.** Deadline: May 15, 2020. Note: We will begin to review ideas as soon as they come in.
- B. **Content:** Briefly describe your ideas for reorganization; interdisciplinary approaches or degrees; cost-saving strategies; collaboration(s) with industry, the state, or other universities; links between research and instruction, etc. Please identify yourself, colleagues collaborating with you, and your affiliations. Contact information could be useful as we refine concepts from the first round of submissions. Please estimate the cost(s) and benefits to implement your idea; do not worry if you do not know. So, in brief: Title, Author(s), Idea, Potential costs, Potential benefits.
- C. **Review:** Submitted concepts will be reviewed, possibly re-combined with others, and an update sent back to our community by June 15.
- D. **Phase 2:** We anticipate a possible Phase 2 for this process in the fall as we implement some ideas immediately and look to FY22 to develop other options.

Thank you for considering this and for taking a moment to submit your idea or concept. The strength of our future depends on the community of ideas and proposals that will assist us in defining new paths for tomorrow at the University of Maine.

Developed by Define Tomorrow Steering Committee: Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Faye Gilbert, and Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Kody Varahramyan, in collaboration with Senior Associate Provost Jeff St. John, Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development Jake Ward, Vice President for Student Life and Inclusive Excellence Robert Dana, Chief of Staff Kimberly Whitehead, Chief Business Officer Claire Strickland, Senior Advisor for Research Jason Charland, and Assistant Provost Debra Allen.